

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for altering a plant characteristic[[s]] selected from one or more of increased yield, increased biomass, altered architecture or altered cell division of [[a]]the plant compared to a control plant, comprising increasing expression in [[a]]the plant of an isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding plant class-2 non-symbiotic haemoglobin, said isolated nucleic acid sequence being SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, such that the plant characteristic selected from one or more of increased yield, increased biomass, altered architecture or altered cell division is altered.

2. (Original) Method of claim 1, wherein said increased yield comprises increased seed yield.

Claims 3-30. (Canceled)